

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SUBWAY FOUNDER  
FRED DELUCA

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 2015*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with the heaviest of hearts that I rise today to pay tribute to one of Connecticut's and this nation's most successful entrepreneurs and my dear friend, Fred DeLuca, who recently lost his battle with leukemia.

Born in Brooklyn in 1947 to Salvatore and Carmela Ombres DeLuca, Fred watched his father, a factory worker, work tirelessly to provide for his family. The family later moved to Bridgeport, Connecticut where Fred graduated from Central High School in 1965. Hoping to pursue a career in medicine, Fred enrolled at the University of Bridgeport. Though working at a local hardware store, his wages would not cover all of his college expenses. Fred knew he had to do something more and that's when he decided to open a sandwich shop and use his earnings to pay his college expenses.

So, with a loan from a family friend, he rented a small store for \$165 a month in downtown Bridgeport, built a takeout counter and opened his first sandwich shop on August 28, 1965. He called it Pete's Submarines in honor of his backer, but on their radio advertisements listeners misheard the name as Pizza Marines, so he changed it to Pete's Subway before settling on the simpler Subway in 1968. Though the first two shops were not a great success, the third, which opened in a better location, changed their fortunes forever.

As the growing operation gained traction, Fred received a degree in psychology but gave up plans for a medical career. The business was incorporated and in 1974, halfway to the goal of owning 32 stores in the company's first decade, the partners adopted franchises as the key to growth—and it worked. In 1978 Subway opened its 100th outlet and in 1987 its 1,000th. Since then, it has averaged 1,500 new restaurants a year, and in recent years it surpassed all competitors, establishing restaurants not only across America but throughout Europe, Asia, and Oceania.

Fred was a reflection of what we all define as the American Dream. What began as a small business to pay his way through college became one of our nation's most beloved fast food chains. Fred never forgot from where it was he started. Whether through scholarships to help young students realize their dreams, grants to local non-profit organizations, or sharing his experiences and inspiring a new generation of young entrepreneurs, Fred gave back to his community and fellow man in so many ways.

Fred DeLuca was many things—a brilliant entrepreneur, a savvy businessman, a generous philanthropist. I am grateful to have had the opportunity to know and work with him and I consider myself fortunate to call him my friend. I extend my deepest sympathies to

Fred's wife, Elisabeth and his son, Jonathan, as well as his many family and friends. He will be deeply missed and leaves a legacy that is certain to inspire many.

CELEBRATING 55 YEARS OF  
NIGERIA'S INDEPENDENCE

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 2, 2015*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as founder and Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Nigeria, I rise in joyful celebration of 55 years of Nigeria's Independence.

I continue to have a deep appreciation of the patriotism, resilience, and commitment of the Nigerian people under the leadership of their newly elected President Muhammadu Buhari.

As an emerging democracy, Nigeria is a country that has faced its set of challenges, conflicts, and contradictions analogous to the human condition itself.

From the civil war from 1967 to 1970 that almost ripped the country apart to the current state of violent extremists' terror wreaked on the Nigerian people.

Setbacks and challenges seek to keep this bulwark of a country down.

But Nigeria has always proven itself a capable leader in the region, notwithstanding its challenges.

For example: Nigeria was instrumental in facilitating the peace process in Liberia.

Nigeria played a seminal role in reenergizing and repositioning the African Union.

Nigeria facilitated the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), designed to promote democracy and good governance in Africa.

Nigeria was instrumental in empowering the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Co-prosperity Alliance Zone incorporating Benin, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo.

Nigeria helped mediate conflict in the continent from Angola to Burundi to Namibia to Mozambique to South Africa and the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, to name a few.

In 2014, in the wake of the Ebola virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Nigeria was instrumental in containing the spread of the virus—preventing a serious public health epidemic which could have had catastrophic implications in the over 180 million person country.

Indeed, in Nigeria and in the Diaspora, we have seen Nigerians contribute enormously to the economy of the United States and across the globe.

The Nigerian economy is \$573 billion—the largest in Africa and ranked 21 in world according to 2014 GDP reports.

Nigeria is the ninth most populated country on the planet with arable land, water, forests,

oil and gas, coastline, and solid minerals, just to name a few resources.

As the most populous nation in Africa, according to archeologists, human habitation in Nigeria dates back to 9000 BC.

Nigerians have innovated in various disciplines, from the arts to the sciences and everything in between.

Nigerians are very hardworking people who through their hard work have been instrumental in helping to champion innovations, like Sulaiman Bolarinde Famro who found Farmking Mobile Multi-crop Processor to reduce both the time it takes to process tuber food such as cassava, sweet potatoes, soy, shea nuts, grains and cereals, and the amount of waste produced in processing—helping to promote food security while addressing environmental waste.

Then there is Okwui Enwezor, the first black and Nigerian curator of the 56th International Art Exhibition entitled All the World's Futures, at the Giardini della Biennale and at the Arsenale in Italy.

Resiliency flows through the veins and into the hearts of the Nigerian people.

That is why Nigeria has emerged from so many trials and tribulations stronger, more united, more focused, and committed to reestablishing the stability, peace, security, growth, and development of the country.

Indeed, October 1 is a day for joy and celebration for Nigerians.

In my view, Nigeria as the regional giant in Africa has the attributes of a great nation and with unity of purpose Nigeria's fullest potential will be achieved.

This is proven by the recent year's democratic development of free and fair elections—which is reflective of the Nigerian people's commitment to cohesion and unity of purpose.

Market women, college students, business men, teachers, doctors, and lawyers flocked to the polls to exercise their right to vote.

Notwithstanding the security issues that persisted, the citizens of Nigeria showed up to the polls because they understood what was at stake: the economic, social and political empowerment of the children, women and men of Nigeria.

With this, the country elected President Buhari who assumed power without incident—owing to his predecessor's graceful transfer of power.

Having inherited a country facing insecurity, I commend President Buhari's effort to double down on efforts to restore peace and security in Nigeria.

He hit the ground running visiting us here in the United States—an important ally of Nigeria.

He met with President Obama and Members of Congress who have been doing important work in Nigeria—myself included.

He also visited neighbors of Nigeria with the eye towards marshalling a coalition of armed forces of the five nations in the Lake Chad Basin to confront, degrade and defeat Boko Haram.

President Buhari also reached out to and met with the G-7 leaders and other friendly

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